

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 11 are pending in the present application, wherein claims 8 through 10 are newly added. Claims 2, 3, 6 and 7 are withdrawn from consideration, and so, claim 1, 4, 5 and 8 through 11 are subject to consideration.

In the Office Action Summary, item 12 indicates that the Office is acknowledging a claim to foreign priority. However, Applicants did not make a claim to foreign priority. On the other hand, the present application claims priority of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/419,174, filed on October 17, 2002. Applicant respectfully requests that in the next communication, the Office **correctly acknowledge Applicant's claim to priority.**

The Office Action, on page 3, cites U.S. Patent No. 6,822,363 to Leijon (hereinafter "the Leijon patent"). However, the Office has not listed the Leijon patent on a PTO-892. Applicant respectfully requests that in the next communication, the Office **list the Leijon patent on a PTO-892.**

On page 2 of the Office Action, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art of FIG. 1 (hereinafter "AAPA") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,327,349. Applicants are traversing this rejection.

Claim 1 provides for an inductive coupler for coupling a signal to a power line. The inductive coupler includes, *inter alia*, a semiconducting coating that encapsulates a core and contacts said power line.

AAPA discloses an inductive coupler. The inductive coupler is for coupling a signal to a power line.

The Ettinger et al. patent is directed toward a core for a transformer for 60 hertz operation (col. 1, lines 17 – 18). In the Ettinger et al. patent, a transformer core 10 consists of a plurality of steel laminations 11 comprising steel plates 14 having an inorganic insulating coating 15 (col. 2,

lines 4 – 11, FIGS. 1 and 2). An insulating enamel 16 with semiconductor particles coats inorganic insulating coating 15 (col. 2, lines 33 – 36, FIGS. 3 and 4). In order to prevent large charges from remaining on the transformer core during normal and surge conditions, **a ground lead** is interposed between two of the laminations to provide an electrical path to the ground (col. 1, lines 24 – 28).

AAPA does not suggest that the inductive data coupler can be implemented using a transformer for 60Hz operation, as disclosed in the Ettinger et al. patent. Also, the Ettinger et al. patent does not suggest that the transformer for 60 hertz operation can be employed in an inductive data coupler, as disclosed in AAPA. Thus, **neither of AAPA nor the Ettinger et al. patent suggest a motive for being combined with one another**, and so the cited combination of AAPA nor the Ettinger et al. patent is not a proper basis for a section 103(a) rejection of claim 1.

Furthermore, the Ettinger et al. patent's teaching of **a lead to provide an electrical path to the ground** is inappropriate for a data coupler on a power line, as the lead would provide **a path of conduction from the power line to ground**. As such, the Ettinger et al. patent's teaching of a lead to provide an electrical path to the ground is **inconsistent with** a semiconducting coating that encapsulates a core and **contacts a power line**, as recited in claim 1. Therefore, the Ettinger et al. patent cannot, either by itself or in combination with another reference, be asserted in a section 103(a) rejection of claim 1.

In view of the reasoning provided above, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited combination of AAPA and the Ettinger et al. patent. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 103(a) rejection of claim 1.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of the Ettinger et al. patent, further in view of the Leijon patent. Applicant is traversing this rejection.

Claims 4 and 5 depend from claim 1. Above, in the discussion of claim 1, Applicant explained that the Ettinger et al. patent cannot, either by itself or in combination with another

reference, be asserted in a section 103(a) rejection of claim 1. Since claims 4 and 5 depend from claim 1, the Ettinger et al. patent also cannot, either by itself or in combination with another reference, be asserted in a section 103(a) rejection of claims 4 and 5. Accordingly, claims 4 and 5 are patentable over the cited combination of AAPA, the Ettinger et al. patent and the Leijon patent.

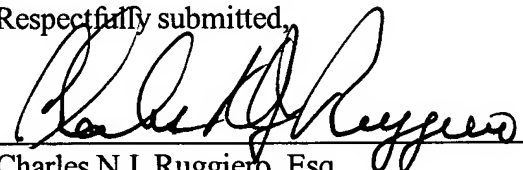
Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 103(a) rejection of claims 4 and 5.

Applicant added claims 8 through 11 to even further provide the claim coverage that Applicant appears to deserve based on the prior art that was cited by the Examiner. On October 22, 2004, Applicant mailed a response to a restriction requirement, in which Applicant elected a species illustrated in FIG. 6. Applicant submits that all of the new claims are readable on the elected species. A favorable consideration that also results in the allowance of claims 8 through 11 is earnestly solicited.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims presented in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

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Date

Respectfully submitted,


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